

**WILLIAMSBURG CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING OF JANUARY 5, 2006**

The Williamsburg City Council met on Thursday, January 5, 2006, at 3:00 p.m. in the Large Conference Room, third floor of the Municipal Building.

ATTENDANCE

Present were Mayor Zeidler, Vice-Mayor Haulman, Mr. Scruggs, Mr. Chohany, and Mr. Freiling.

Also present were City Manager Tuttle, Assistant City Manager Miller, City Attorney Phillips, Economic Development Manager DeWitt, and City Clerk Crist. Department Heads Nester, Serra, and Walentisch attended.

Mayor Zeidler called the meeting to order and stated that this special session of Council was held to meet with the city's Economic Development Manager Michele DeWitt and hear her presentation regarding the city's Draft Economic Development Strategic Plan. Ms. DeWitt has been working on the plan for the past five months. Council members received a copy of the draft prior to the meeting.

Mr. Tuttle said that when Ms. DeWitt was employed with the city several months ago, she was charged to work with City Council and the Economic Development Authority (EDA) to develop an ED strategic plan. After meeting and facilitating the discussion with Council about the five major goals outlined in the plan, she will present the draft plan to the Economic Development Authority at its January 11 meeting.

Ms. DeWitt reviewed a Powerpoint summary of the draft ED Strategic Plan (see slides attached). She first reviewed information about the city's current economic (accomplishments, advantages and challenges, State of Business), along with statistical information regarding business and employment.

Ms. DeWitt presented the following goals to ensure Williamsburg's Economic Vitality:

1. Existing businesses grow and prosper in the City, and Williamsburg's hospitality industry prospers during and after the Commemoration events of 2007.
2. The economy of the City is more diversified, building on its current strengths in retail trade, tourism/hospitality and education, while growing emerging areas of cultural arts, research/development, and professional
3. Williamsburg is known for its positive business environment.
4. The infrastructure (parking, technology, sidewalks, water, sewer, streets) of Williamsburg supports the growth of quality business in the City.
5. Williamsburg maintains a high quality sense of place that appeals to citizens, students, and visitors. Williamsburg remains a specialty entertainment, cultural, and retail center of the Historic Triangle.

City Council Special Meeting
January 5, 2006

Council members and Ms. DeWitt discussed the five major goals. Ms. DeWitt noted members' comments and suggestions to the draft plan and will make the revisions before the plan is presented to the EDA. Council members were pleased with this start of the city's Economic Development Strategic Plan, and thanked Ms. DeWitt for this great work and for leading their discussion.

Council members concurred that they would like to hear comment from citizens and the business sector regarding the plan. Opportunities will be provided through meetings, forums, and work sessions. Ms. DeWitt said that it was most likely that the plan would be placed on Council's March agenda.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Approved February 9, 2006

Jeanne Zeidler, Mayor

Shelia Y. Crist
Clerk of Council